of inspection carried out under section 209-A of the Companies Act, 1956 in respect of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited has been received on 26.2.1987 by the Central Board of Excise & Customs from the Department of Company Affairs. The report is being examined for appropriate action.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Nationalisation of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company

1905. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karamchari Samity of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company have urged for nationalisation of the Company or its merger; and

(b) if so, what is Government response to this proposal keeping in view interest of wide range of customers stock with Peerless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no proposal under consideration to nationalise the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited, Calcutta or to merge it with any other organisation. However, Reserve Bank of India has been asked to initiate such measures as are considered necessary in the light of the Supreme Court judgement to regulate the activities of the Company with a view to protecting the interests of the depositors of the Company.

Supersession of IAS Officers

1906. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in promoting two I.A.S. officers of 1957 batch working as Additional Secretaries in the Prime Minister's Office, about a hundred officers belonging to the earlier batches of I.A.S. and some of the 1957 batch have been superseded; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The post of Secretary to Government of India is a senior post. Not all officers are appointed as Secretary to Government of India. The appointments to senior posts under the Government filled under the senior staffing scheme are normally made from amongst eligible officers belonging to All India and Central Services, keeping in view the job requirements of each post and the qualifications and experience of the officers in the field of choice.

Commercial Banks functioning in Karnataka

1907. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the commercial banks which are functioning in Karnataka at present;

(b) the number of them that are running of profit/loss; and what are the reasons of their loss; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the performance of those commercial banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Names of the 28 Public Sector Banks and 13 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in Karnataka are given in the enclosed statement. (See below) In addition, the Vijaya Bank Ltd. and Karnataka Bank Ltd. in the private sector, have their Head Offices located in Karnataka.

(b) None of the 28 Public Sector Banks functioning in Karnataka State and the 2 private sector banks having their Head Offices in the State has reported loss so far in their published accounts. Out of 13 RRBs, 3 RRBs viz. Tungabhadra Gramin Bank, Malaprabha Gramin Bank and Vishveswarayya Gramin Bank have reported profit and the remaining 10 RRBs have incurred losses during the year ended 31 December, 1985. The reasons for losses incurred by the RRBs include narrow margin rapid branch expansion, increase in administrative expenditure, limited clientele etc.

(c) Government had constituted a Working Group to consider various aspects of functioning of the RRBs. Pursuent to the recommendations of the Working Group, a number of steps are proposed to be taken for improving the viability of the RRBs. These include release of additional share capital to RRBs with satisfactory track record, enlarging the scope of their lending by allowing them to lend to public bodies village panchayats, lowering of interest rate of refinance provided to them by sponsoring banks and investment of their funds for the purpose of statutory liquidity ratio in the securities of better yield etc.

Statement

Names of Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks functioning in Karnataka

Public Sector Banks:

1. State Bank of India
2. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
3. State Bank of Indore.
4. State Bank of Mysore
5. State Bank of Patiala
6. State Bank of Saurashtra
7. Stote Bank of Travancore
8. State Bank of Hyderabad
9. Allahabad Bank
10. Andhra Bank
11. Bank of Baroda
12. Bank of India
13. Bank of Maharashtra
14. Canara Bank
15. Central Bank of India
16. Corporation Bank
17. Dena Bank
18. Indian Bank
19. Indian Overseas Bank
20. New Bank of India
21. Oriental Bank of Commerce
22. Punjab National Bank
23. Punjab & Sind Bank
24. Syndicate Bank
25. Union Bank of India
26. United Bank of India
27. UCO Bank
28. Vijaya Bank

Regional Rural Banks:

1. Tungabhadra Gramin Bank
2. Malaprabha Gramin Bank
3. Cauvery Gramin Bank
4. Krishna Gramin Bank
5. Chitradurga Gramin Bank
6. Kalpatharu Gramin Bank
7. Kolar Gramin Bank .
8. Bijapur Gramin Bank

9. Chikmagalur-Kodagu Gramin Bank
10. Sahyadri Gramin Bank
11. Netravati Gramin Bank
12. Varada Gramin Bank
13. Vishveswarayya Gramin Bank

Smuggled goods sold in Palika Bazar

1908. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign smuggled goods are being freely sold on the pavements and in Palika Bazar in Delhi;

(b) what action has been taken against the persons so far arrested for selling the same; and

(c) what are the source from where these vendors get these foreign goods for sale and what action Government propose to take to prevent this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Consumer goods of foreign origin are at times found to be sold from pavements and some of the shops in Palika Bazar, New Delhi.

(b) To prevent and check open display and sale of smuggled goods, the Customs authorities conduct periodical raids and searches. During the year 1986, the Customs authorities conducted 41 raids/searches on vendors, hawkers and shop owners in the principal markets of Delhi including Palika Bazar displaying and selling foreign goods. As a result, goods of foreign origin valued at Rs. 2.69 lakhs were seized.

(c) The following have been identified as the main sources of supply of goods:—

(i) Goods brought by Indian passengers and foreign tourists as their personal baggage either free of Customs duty or on payment of duty/fine under Baggage Rules and sold;

(ii) Spurious goods sold by using foreign brand names;

(iii) Consumers goods smuggled into the country through land borders/sea-coast.

The anti-smuggling drive in general has been intensified. Raids and searches are conducted periodically to unearth the contraband goods at the storage places.

Whole-sale Price Index

1909. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the whole-sale price index is successively increasing in the last three months; and

(b) if so, what was the whole-sale price index in the end of February, 1987 and how does it compare with the Price Index at the end of February, 1986 and how is it compatible with the Government claim that the inflation has been contained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The wholesale price index (WPI) (1970-71=100) for the week ending 21.2.1987 (latest available) was 379.7, compared with 379.2 on 22.11.1986, 377.5 on 20.12.1986 and 380.6 on 24.1.1987. The WPI for the last week of February, 1986 i.e. 22.2.1986 was 358.9.

The annual rate of inflation as on 21.2.1987 was 5.8 per cent as compared with 5.4 per cent as on 22nd February last year.